

term for base solicitation.¹ Gower, in the *Vox Clamantis* (1382), tried to distinguish and specify sensual love. He inclines to the monkish view of women, but he describes good and noble women. Alanus ab Insulis (-f 1203) in his *De Planctu Naturae** bewailed the vices of mankind and the vicious relations of men and women. His aim is to distinguish between good and evil love. He wrote at the height of the woman cult. In the *Romatmt de la Rose* the thing discussed seems to be positive vice. It is said that the way to win women is by lavish gifts. The meretriciousness of women and their love of luxury are denounced. If a marriage turns out badly, the men say that God made it, but God is good, and evil is due to man.³ In the *Paston Letters* (fifteenth century) marriage appears to be entirely mercenary.⁴ A girl tells her lover what her father will give with her. If he is not satisfied he must discontinue his suit.⁶ " My master asked mockingly if a man might not beat his own wife."⁶ The one love match in the book is that of Margaret Paston with a man who was a servant in the family. Margaret's mother, the most interesting person in the *Letters*, although she left £20 to her grandson by this marriage, left nothing to her daughter. Schultz⁷ thinks that marriages turned out as well in the Middle Ages as now, and that adultery was no more frequent; also that ecclesiastics were not then more licentious than now. He quotes freely from Geiler and Murner, who were leading moral preachers of the fifteenth century. Geiler preached in Strasburg Cathedral. Murner was a Franciscan. Geiler is incredibly coarse and outspoken. He pretended to state cases within his knowledge of men who made gain of their wives, and of wives who entered into arrangements with their

husbands to
make gain for both. He preached from these as
illustrative cases
and tried to dissuade both men and women from
matrimony.⁸

Chateau life was monotonous and stupid, especially
for women,
who were moreover partly secluded in special
apartments. The
young men and women had very little chance to
meet. The

¹ Schultz, *Hof. Leben*, I, 581, and the whole of Chap.VII; Scherr,
D. F. W., 1,220.

² Migne, *Patrol. Lat.*, Vol. 210. ⁵ III, 171.

⁸ Line 18,580.

⁶ I, 150.

⁴ I, 90, 92, 251; III, 103, 104 (in spite of ⁷ *D. Z.*, 271,
276, 277.

love), 109, 167, 278.
277.

⁸ Schultz, *D. Z.*, 259, 271-